

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5276

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

S E C R E T ROME 1034

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, IT

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

REF: ROME 18525

1. MFA'S CZECHOSLOVAK DESK CHIEF (VECCHI) HAS INFORMED US THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE UPHELD THEIR END OF THE BARGAIN AND HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST ITALIAN PERSONNEL IN PRAGUE AS THE RESULT OF THE RECENT OUSTER OF TWO CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY EMPLOYEES FROM ITALY. VECCHI NOTED THAT THE ITALIAN SILENCE ON THE MATTER HAD BEEN MAINTAINED WHICH AIDED THE SITUATION.

2. VECCHI VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS RECENTLY REQUESTED A VISA FOR A NEW EMBASSY OFFICER WHICH THE ITALIANS HAD REFUSED TO GRANT. ACCORDING TO VECCHI, THE INDIVIDUAL (NAME NOT PROVIDED) HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN ITALY AND HAD ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES DURING HIS TOUR HERE. VACCHI INDICATED THAT AGAIN IN THIS INSTANCE THE CZECHS HAVE CHOSEN TO AVOID A CLASH WITH THE ITALIANS, PRESUMABLY IN ORDER NOT TO CAUSE ANY ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO THEIR SLOWLY IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT. PRESENT "SPY HUNT" IN ITALY COULD LEAD TO EVENTUAL
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EXPOSURE OF RECENT PNG ACTION AGAINST CZECHS SINCE SOME OF

THE MEDIA SEEMS INTENT ON FINGERING NOT ONLY CIA ACTIVITIES
BUT ALSO THOSE OF THE LGB AND PRESUMABLY THEIR ALLIED
SERVICES.VOLPE

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